



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
The Bureau of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
N.H. Department of Safety, Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@nhoem.state.nh.us

February 2006

FLOOD RECOVERY WORK CONTINUES – Four months after the worst floods in a generation tore through southwestern New Hampshire, recovery efforts are continuing and will likely be underway at least until fall. Much of that work is being done by volunteers. *Operation Flood Recovery* was established by New Hampshire Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to coordinate those efforts. With financial support from the N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management, the organization hired a case manager. Working with the case manager are two Americorps/Vista volunteers. To date, *Operation Flood Recovery* has met with more than 250 individuals or families. Each case has been reviewed, assessing immediate needs. Sixty-five volunteers from 20 state and local agencies began serving as intake staff on November 1st, doing the preliminary work to meet the immediate needs of victims.

Among the organizations involved in Operation Flood Recovery are Southwestern Community Services, the Monadnock Collaborative, Salvation Army, American Red Cross and United Way.

SHIPYARD CONDUCTS EXERCISE WITH N.H. AND MAINE – The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard conducted a joint exercise with the states of New Hampshire and Maine on February 14th to test its emergency capabilities in case of an incident involving the potential release of radiation from one of its submarines. The exercise involved testing notification, communication, decision-making and public affairs functions. In addition to shipyard facilities, the New Hampshire and Maine state Emergency Operations Centers were activated for the exercise. The emergency planning zone for the shipyard extends for a half mile, compared with 10 miles for a nuclear power plant. Shipyard officials point out that submarine-based reactors are much smaller than power plant reactors and are usually operate on low power or are shut down during shore maintenance. The half-mile EPZ includes portions of Portsmouth and New Castle.

BEM OFFICIALS ATTEND NEMA CONFERENCE – N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management Assistant Director Kathryn Doult and Planning Chief Mike Poirier attended the mid-year meeting of the National Emergency Management Association in Washington February 11th -15th. NEMA members heard from U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and discussed national emergency management priorities from the states' perspectives.

Topics under discussion included lessons learned from the Hurricane Katrina response, the future of FEMA, all-hazards planning and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC provided most of the state-to-state mutual aid during the Katrina response. States are being tasked with developing “all-state” evacuation plans; and coastal states have been instructed to conduct an exercise before June 1, 2006, that would incorporate evacuation, in anticipation of this year’s hurricane season. The upcoming Seabrook ingestion pathway exercise may be able to count for this. More information on the conference and the expectations of state and local governments will be forthcoming.

KAZAKHSTAN EM DELEGATION TO VISIT STATE – A group of emergency management officials from the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan will visit New Hampshire March 4th-11th as part of the Defense Department’s *Partners for Peace* program. The delegation will tour Seabrook Station and facilities operated by the N.H. National Guard and Department of Safety. They will also visit the State House and listen to presentations on EOC operations and the state’s response to last October’s floods.

Partners for Peace is an effort to assist government officials from former Soviet Republics in establishing Democratic institutions and making them work.

NORTH COUNTRY CERT ASSISTS POLICE – The Thornton-Waterville Valley Community Emergency Response Team got some real world experience last December 12th during a domestic dispute that turned into a stand-off with police. The team was activated by the Thornton emergency management director at 7:30 a.m. Working under the supervision of N.H. State Police, they helped to reroute traffic away from a quarter-mile section of Route 175. That gave state and local police the room they needed to successfully resolve the situation. The CERT worked at the incident for nearly three hours and got thanks from police and the Thornton EMD for their assistance.

EXERCISE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED - An exercise plan workshop for New Hampshire emergency responders is being held on March 7th. It is aimed at developing a Three-Year Exercise Plan and Schedule for the State of New Hampshire, with input from appropriate stakeholders. This workshop is not a course on how to plan or conduct an exercise. Approximately 40 people from all facets of emergency management and the first responder community from the entire state have been invited to attend. The primary component of the Three-Year Exercise Plan will consist of overall exercise plan goals, an exercise methodology to meet the stated goals, and a three-year timeline of exercise activity.

Exercises scheduled for March are a City of Manchester/Manchester Airport exercise on March 10th, a Dover Reception Center drill for Seabrook Station on March 13th and the Seabrook Combined Functional Drill #2 on March 15th.

N.H. RECEIVES GIFT OF EMERGENCY GENERATORS – The State of New Hampshire has received a gift of 50 portable electric generators from a Chinese businessman to be used in emergencies. The generators were the gift of Mr. Guo Xiang Chen, General Manager of the Nantong Anda Power Machinery Co., Limited, located near Shanghai, China. The company produces generators and other power equipment for major U.S. retailer. George Bruno, who represents Mr. Chen in the United States, said he wanted to help the victims of New Hampshire's floods last October.

The donation consists of 30 1,200-watt, single phase and 20 three-kilowatt, single phase generators, which would be used in emergencies to power individual homes that were without power but otherwise undamaged, allowing residents to stay in their homes.

N.H. ESCAPES MAJOR BLIZZARD – A record-breaking nor'easter struck the East Coast on February 12th, burying major cities and disrupting travel, but New Hampshire escaped the worst of the storm. Snowfall totals ranged from about two inches in the Concord area to 14 inches in Salem. Slick roads forced the cancellation of Sunday church services and other weekend activities and caused a number of mostly-minor accidents. The situation in New York City was very different. All three New York City airports were closed and Central Park received a record-breaking 26.9 inches, the most for a single storm for since record-keeping began in 1869.

This has not been a very snowy winter in New Hampshire thus far. The National Weather Service says snowfall in Concord for January was four inches below normal at 14.9 inches.